

State Board of Education Meeting – Audio – 12/18/14 - Part 1
Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal
Public Comment, Committee Reports from State Board Members, Literacy Campaign
Information

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr.; G. Patrick Heffernan, Randall L. Hughes, Barbara B. Rutt and Terry M. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Mark Murphy was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

Attached is the sign in sheet of attendees for the Board meeting. The agenda was approved as distributed. The motion was made by Mr. Melendez and seconded by Mr. Heffernan. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the State Board Retreat of November 13-14, 2014 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the minutes of the retreat. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Coverdale and Dr. Whittaker abstained)

Minutes from the regular meeting of November 20, 2014 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Dr. Whittaker abstained)

Three individuals had signed up to address the Board for public comment. It was indicated that one person signed up by mistake and did not wish to make public comment. Bill Doolittle stated he was a parent and President-Elect for the Delaware PTA. He asked all Board members to read the comments from Gateway parents and noted that he felt the charter school performance framework does not address special education students properly. He asked that the Board address the system and to fix the state data as we move to needs based funding.

Mike Matthews also made public comment. He is a fifth grade teacher at Warner Elementary in the Red Clay Consolidated School District. He spoke on the MOU for the priority schools noted that the Red Clay Board approved the MOU at its board meeting. He noted that it was not an easy task and many educators fear what will happen to these schools three years down the road. Mr. Matthews stated he signed the document to protect jobs in his district. Mr. Matthews also asked Secretary Murphy since he was a resident of the Red Clay School District to co-author an op ed supporting the district's upcoming referendum.

Board members highlighted their monthly activities including the State Board's workshop and professional development on Next Generation Science Standards. Ms. Johnson also commented on the State Board workshop and the presentation by Delaware teachers on a NGSS lesson with all in attendance participating. It was announced that the State Board would also be hosting a workshop on January 6th on assessment with Smarter Balanced and the development of a new statewide accountability system. Dr. Gray highlighted Junior Achievement's partnership with the Delaware STEM Council.

Ms. Johnson noted that there was information posted for information on the State Board's Literacy Campaign.

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Secretary's Report, Presentation on Common Core State Standards and Regulation 502 Implementation and Presentation of Smarter Assessment Standard Setting for Discussion

Secretary Murphy provided his monthly report. He highlighted that over 1500 Delaware high school students are enrolled in college coursework this year which is an increase from last year's count of 600 students. He commented on SPARC, a non-profit group that provides students access to work experiences stating 98 businesses are participating and schools are piloting in all three counties. Secretary Murphy also noted a grant the Department received that will address services for the state's youngest students, infants and toddlers.

Michael Watson and Shelley Rouser from the Department's Teaching and Learning Branch provided an update on Common Core Standards Implementation. They were joined by Joh Ewald, Superintendent in the Laurel School District who highlighted implementation in his district. The presentation also touched on site visits and revisions to Regulation 502. The Board was also briefed on the support work provided to districts by Common Ground for the Common Core.

Brian Touchette from the Department's Office of Assessment provided the Board with the standard setting process for the achievement levels for the Smarter Balanced assessment. The timeline began in April of 2014 and included online panels, in person panel participation, a cross grade review and review by the Technical Advisory Committee. Delaware teachers participated on the panels. Mr. Touchette noted that the new standards set higher expectations for students and the new tests are designed to assessment performance against these higher expectations. The proposed scale score cut points are:

ELA/Literacy Scale Score Thresholds (scale 2000-3000)			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2367	2432	2490
4	2416	2473	2533
5	2442	2502	2582
6	2457	2531	2618
7	2479	2552	2649
8	2487	2567	2668
11	2493	2583	2682

Mathematics Scale Score Thresholds (scale 2000-3000)			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2381	2436	2501
4	2411	2485	2549
5	2455	2528	2579
6	2473	2552	2610
7	2484	2567	2635
8	2504	2586	2653
11	2543	2628	2718

Action on the proposed scores will be presented to the State Board at its January meeting.

The Board recessed from 2:32 p.m. to 2:44 p.m.

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Department Regulations

Several regulations were before the Board for action. Tina Shockley, the Department's Policy Advisor, presented the regulations and was accompanied by Department staff to assist in any questions.

Regulation 101, State Assessment System. Brian Touchette and Sarah Celestin assisted in presenting the revisions. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to consent to the amendment of the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Regulation 923, Children with Disabilities Subpart B, General Duties and Eligibility of Agencies. Sarah Celestine highlighted the revisions. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to consent to the amendment of the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Regulation 925, Children with Disabilities Subpart D, Evaluations, Eligibility Determination, Individualized Education Programs. Sarah Celestin highlighted the revisions. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to consent to the amendment of the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Regulation 915, James H. Groves High School. Maureen Whelan highlighted the revisions. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to consent to the amendment of the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

State Board of Education Meeting – Audio – 12/18/14 - Part 4
Charter School Items: Charter Renewals, Minor Modification Actions taken by the Secretary and Update on Probation of Academia Antonia Alonso

Jen Nagourney from the Charter School Office provided the charter items. She was joined by David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chair of the Charter School Accountability Committee.

Dr. Gray noted that the State Board would only be taking action on the renewal of the seven charter schools on the agenda and the Board would not be voting on approval of performance agreements. All schools will be presented with new performance agreements later this year as the school accountability and framework changes are finalized.

Information was provided on each school as well as its performance on the academic performance framework, financial framework and organizational framework.

Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 29, 2014. It was the recommendation of the Secretary that the school's charter be renewed with the conditions indicated in the final report of the Charter School Accountability Committee. The conditions were: 1) the school shall attain a rating of "Meets Standard" on the Academic Framework for the 2014-2015 school year and 2) the school shall attain a rating of "Meets Standard" on the Financial Framework for the 2014-2015 school year. The Board reviewed the school's performance report and discussed their application. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the renewal application for DAPSS. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

EastSide Charter School, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 30, 2014. It was the recommendation of the Secretary that the school's charter be renewed and include the modification on the school's enrollment preference. The Board reviewed the school's performance report and discussed their application. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the renewal application for EastSide. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale. There was discussion on the motion including the modification or if there should be a separate motion. A motion was then made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the school's renewal application and its major modification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Family Foundations, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 30, 2014. Secretary Murphy noted that the Department just received a 200 page document on the allegations that have been brought forward on the school. The school was contacted and has waived the 60 day time period for action and Secretary Murphy stated that action on this renewal was being deferred at this time. No action by necessary by the State Board.

Gateway Lab School, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 30, 2014. It was noted that the recommendation of the Charter School Advisory Committee was to not renew the school's charter. Secretary Murphy noted the public comment that was

received, both written and oral on the school's renewal application. He also noted that the school wished to establish an alternate framework as many of its student population consists of many at-risk students. It was his recommendation that the school's charter be renewed with the condition that the school's performance is meets on the alternate academic framework in 2015-2016. Should the school fail to do so then the Secretary would move forward with revocation and formal review. The Board reviewed the school's performance report and discussed their application. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the renewal application for Gateway. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and approved 4-3 by roll call vote (Ayes: Mr. Coverdale, Mr. Hughes, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Whittaker. Nays: Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Melendez, Dr. Gray)

Las Americas ASPIRA Academy, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 29, 2014. It was the recommendation of the Secretary that the school's charter be renewed. The Board reviewed the school's performance report and discussed their application. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the renewal application for ASPIRA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Odyssey Charter School, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 30, 2014. It was the recommendation of the Secretary that the school's charter be renewed with the conditions indicated in the final report of the Charter School Accountability Committee. The conditions were: 1) the school's bylaws shall be brought into compliance with State Code as it relates to the public nature of the Executive Committee and attendance procedures at all public meetings by the close of business on December 10, 2014; 2) the CBOC shall be brought into compliance with State Code as it relates to membership by close of business on December 31, 2014; and 3) all Board members shall participate in training provided by DANA and the PIC by February 28, 2015. It was noted that condition 1 had already been met. The Board reviewed the school's performance report and discussed their application. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the renewal application for Odyssey Charter School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Reach Academy for Girls, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 30, 2014. It was the recommendation of the Secretary that the school's charter not be renewed. Secretary Murphy commented that despite the additional time to show growth the school remains the lowest school academically for all public schools and students are not reaching proficiency and performing worse than their peers. Dr. Gray noted that charter statute requires approval of a renewal application by both the Secretary and the State Board and given the Secretary's recommendation not to renew no action is required by the State Board.

Rev. Cannon Casson rose from the audience and asked for personal privilege and made a statement about his disappointment in the action.

Ms. Nagourney provided an update for the State Board on the minor modification request from Newark Charter and an update on the probation of Academia Antonio Alonso.

The Board recessed from 4:48 p.m. to 4:56 p.m.

State Board Meeting - Audio – 12/18/14 - Part 5
Professional Standards Board, Appeals and Reviews, Information Items and Adjournment

Chris Kenton, Executive Director for the Professional Standards Board presented their agenda items.

Regulation 1572 Teacher of Students who are Gifted and Talented. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Praxis II Exam and Other Content Readiness Exam. Mr. Kenton requested approval of the State Board to adopt a Content Readiness Assessment in the area of Gifted Education (5358) which is a new test with a cut score of 157. This would become effective on January 11, 2015. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to consent to the adoption of a Content Readiness Assessment for Gifted Education. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Regulation 1512 Issuance and Renewal of Advanced License. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Regulation 1513 Denial of Licenses. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order

Regulation 1514 Revocation, Limitation, or Suspension of Licenses. A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate Order

Regulation 1507 Alternate Routes to Teacher Licensure and Certification Program was presented for discussion and it was noted that it was part of the five year review cycle.

Deputy Attorney General Ilona Kirshon provided the Board with an update on the current appeals and Dr. Gray indicated the information items that were on the agenda.

There being no further business of the State Board, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education